

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The establishment of a Foreign Trade Bank (Aussenhandelsbank) in East Berlin has been authorized by the Council of Ministers; it will commence business on 1 January 1956.
2. As a preliminary to this decision, the President of the Deutsche Notenbank, Frau Greta Kuckoff, went to Warsaw and Prague during the summer of 1955 to investigate the technical problems connected with the establishment of such an institution. (Poland and Czechoslovakia have long had such banks.) So far as is known, she did not go to Moscow for a similar purpose.
3. The new bank will have a staff of some 400 employees, the bulk of whom will come from the Deutsche Notenbank, although some will be recruited from the financial departments of the import-export agencies. No one has been appointed general director, although the name of Werner Todtmann, now vice-president of the Deutsche Notenbank, has been mentioned. Deputy director and general manager will be Georg Kulesa, at present a director of the Deutsche Notenbank.

Kurt Gawehn, head of the Foreign Currency Division in the Deutsche Notenbank, is a probable nominee for a leading position but nothing definite is yet known. Others who will be transferred to the new bank are:

Wilhelm Boes, to direct the Foreign Information Department
 Hans-Christian Eckermann, to direct the Contract Department
 Fedor Ziesche, to direct the Legal Department
 Rudolf Trebut)
 Herbert Purps) exact function not determined.
 Walter Pusch)

4. A commission is now considering whether the policy of the new Foreign Trade Bank will be directed by the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Foreign Trade, or the President of the Deutsche Notenbank.

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